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MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS 2200 MILL ROAD ALEXANDRIA VA 22314 (703) 838-1791

TONNAGE INDEX DECREASES IN FEBRUARY

General freight carrier tonnage decreased 0.3 points in February, 1986, from January, 1986 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 142.5(p) with 1967 = 100, the February tonnage is 0.2 percent below January's 142.8(r). The current month's volume is 4 points (2.9 percent) above the tonnage level in February, 1985.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey decreased from 4.03 million tons in January to 3.98 million tons in February, 1986. Actual tons decreased 1.2%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days decreased the February index level to 142.5(p).

From January, 1986 to February, 1986, Industrial Production decreased 0.6% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decrease of 0.2%.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH FEBRUARY, 1986
1967 = 100

	FEB 1986	JAN 1986	DEC 1985	FEB 1985	Monthly % Change 1/86 / 12/85	Monthly % Change 2/86 / 1/86	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	142.5p	142.8r	136.8f	138.5f	+4.4	-0.2	+2.9
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	133.5p	135.1r	126.9f	130.0f	+6.5	-1.2	+2.7
Industrial Production Index[2,5] (total)	125.7	126.5	126.3	123.7	+0.2	-0.6	+1.6
Manufacturers (total)	128.8	129.7	129.2	125.8	+0.4	-0.7	+2.4
Non-durable	128.9	129.4	128.3	123.8	+0.9	-0.4	+4.1
Durable	128.8	129.8	129.8	127.2	--	-0.8	+1.3
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	478.5	479.2	480.9	458.6	-0.4	-0.1	+4.3
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	292.3	296.2	297.2	292.6	-0.4	-1.3	-0.1
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	327.5	328.4	327.4	317.4	+0.3	-0.3	+3.2
Tonnage Reported by 121 Carriers in Feb., 1986 (000 tons)	3,979	4,026	n.a.	3,957	n.a.	-1.2	+0.6

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable

1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days
2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index)
4 - Goods and services
5 - 1977=100

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX — HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
January	152.7	129.8	126.9	144.4	140.9	142.8r
February	153.0	133.6	127.3	142.2	138.5	142.5p
March	152.9	130.8	128.9	143.4	139.1	
April	153.0	130.8	130.2	146.3	137.3	
May	153.5	130.9	133.6	144.0	137.1	
June	150.8	131.8	136.1	143.1	133.7	
July	151.2	128.4	150.9	144.8	132.2	
August	145.8	129.7	137.1	145.3	134.3	
September	143.9	128.5	138.5	141.1	135.1	
October	139.8	125.4	138.4	144.0	138.3	
November	135.8	121.3	138.7	145.2	140.3	
December	131.1	125.9	142.3	143.3	136.8	

Note: All Data 1981 - 1985 Have Been Updated In This Table And In The Following "Moving Average"

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1984	143.0	143.3	144.0	144.6	144.5	144.0	144.4	143.7	143.5	143.4	144.2	143.1
1985	140.9	139.5	138.3	137.8	136.0	134.3	133.4	133.9	135.9	137.0	138.5	140.0r
1986	140.7p											

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.